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The Federal Communications Commission on Friday said it is delaying to 2016 a highly anticipated spectrum auction in which TV broadcasters will sell airwaves so they can be used for mobile broadband.

The so-called spectrum-incentive auction was to take place in 2015 and involve TV broadcasters taking bids to relinquish their airwaves, which would have then be sold to wireless carriers to meet the exploding demand for mobile broadband on smartphones, tablets and other devices.

Observers doubted that the FCC would be able to begin the auction next year as planned, especially after the broadcasters filed a lawsuit challenging aspects of the agency's auction plan. Gary Epstein, chairman of the FCC's incentive-auction task force, acknowledged the lawsuit has caused delays and confirmed the auction won't take place as planned in a blog post published Friday. "We are confident we will prevail in court, but given the reality of that schedule, the complexity of designing and implementing the auction, and the need for all auction participants to have certainty well in advance of the auction, we now anticipate accepting applications for the auction in the fall of 2015 and starting the auction in early 2016," Mr. Epstein wrote. "Despite this brief delay, we remain focused on the path to successfully implementing the incentive auction."



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The National Association of Broadcasters in a written statement disputed the legal challenge is to blame for the delay, but welcomed the opportunity to resolve the issues that prompted the lawsuit. "As NAB has said repeatedly, it is more important to get the auction done right than right now," NAB spokesman Dennis Wharton said. "We reject suggestions that our narrowly-focused lawsuit is cause for delay. We look forward to a

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**Gov. Tom Corbett addresses the Pennsylvania Press Club luncheon (co-sponsored by BCAP) Monday evening at 6:00 and 10:10 p.m. on PCN.**

speedy resolution of our legal challenge and a successful auction.” Experts have called the incentive auction the most complex undertaking attempted by the FCC, and there is uncertainty over how many TV stations will choose to take part. The FCC recently unveiled materials designed to entice stations into signing up for the auction, and has begun a roadshow to sell broadcasters on the prospect.

The pitch includes high-end estimates for how much money stations can expect to get for their airwaves, with those figures reaching hundreds of millions of dollars in the largest markets. The auction is ultimately expected to affect as many as 80 markets, with stations in large urban areas and the markets directly adjacent to them expected to fetch the highest prices for spectrum. In those markets where spectrum is worth the most, the value of their airwaves could exceed the value of many of the non-network affiliates, making small local, ethnic and religious broadcasters the most likely to take the funds and either go off the air, enter into a channel-sharing arrangement or be moved to a lower frequency. – **Wall Street Journal**

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Roku, the popular video streaming device maker, is preparing a potential filing for an initial public offering, people briefed on the matter said Friday. The company, which has been working with banks like Bank of America Merrill Lynch and Citigroup, would be likely to keep its preliminary paperwork under wraps under the provisions of the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act. The law lets companies with less than \$1 billion in annual revenue file confidentially. An offering could raise as much as \$150 million, one of these people added.

Should the company decide to move forward with an I.P.O., it would be following in the footsteps of a handful of consumer technology companies that have ventured successfully onto the public markets. Chief among them is GoPro, the maker of sports-oriented handheld cameras, **whose public debut** was among the year's splashiest. Founded in 2002, Roku has become one of the most popular makers of set-top boxes that let consumers stream Internet video onto their TVs. It has raised roughly \$153 million in financing already from investors like Hearst and News Corporation. Representatives for Roku, Bank of America Merrill Lynch and Citigroup declined to comment. – **Bloomberg**

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State Rep. Doyle Heffley didn't get to debate his Nov. 4 election opponent, Patti Borger, because the Democratic challenger chose not to participate in the debate at Penn's Peak on Oct. 16. Borger said she was invited, but declined. "I chose not to go into that setting from past experience with other candidates who said yes because it was unbalanced when fairness came into play," Borger said. "I also made the decision not to debate, because, to me, it was just another photo op, something that could become a little more theatrical drama than what is actually concerning the people."

Heffley was disappointed he could not debate his opponent. "I've debated my opponents since the first year I ran, in 2008," Heffley said "This is the first time my opponent declined to debate." Heffley did not agree with Borger that the debate is unfair. "The debate is moderated by the local cable station," Heffley said. "It gives people the chance to see the difference between the candidates."

Heffley said it is important for him to have contact with the public often. "As an incumbent, I respect political process, and think it is important we meet in public forums," Heffley said. "I do several town hall telephone meetings per year, I do regular town hall meetings, and four expos per year — a senior expo, a sportsman's expo, a veterans expo, and a drug and alcohol awareness expo." – **Hazleton Standard-Speaker**

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*Daily News* columnist and former Gov. Ed Rendell is running for Senate. At least he is on "Alpha House," the John Goodman-starring show that streams on Amazon

Prime. "Alpha House," created by "Doonesbury" cartoonist Gary Trudeau, is about a group of four Republican senators from varying districts who live together in a Capitol Hill townhouse. The second season dropped all 10 of its episodes Friday on the streaming service and features a plot in which fictional Pennsylvania Sen. Robert Bettencourt (Philly-born actor Clark Johnson, "Homicide: Life on the Street," "The Wire") faces his first real challenger: Gov. Rendell, who is referred to as "the enormously popular ex-governor." Rendell even shows up for a cameo in the third episode, being interviewed on a TV news show. The second season also features a cameo by part-time Media resident Wanda Sykes, who aims an excellent barb at the African-American Johnson's Sen. Bettencourt: "What's the matter Robert? You couldn't make it through clown college? I'll just become a black Republican. It's the same gig." – *Philadelphia Daily News*



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